

Barnes, Edlynzia

From: Barnes, Edlynzia
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:43 AM
To: Jaffess, Sharon
Cc: Korleski, Christopher
Subject: RE: FY 2020 Fact Sheet needs updated -- ASAP
Attachments: Ohio EPA - GLRI Focus Area Contacts (as of 10-3-18).docx

Updates to the GLAB are in the attached document.

Best,
Lynzi

From: Jaffess, Sharon
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:31 AM
To: Barnes, Edlynzia <Barnes.Edlynzia@epa.gov>
Cc: Korleski, Christopher <korleski.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FY 2020 Fact Sheet needs updated -- ASAP
Importance: High

Hi Lynzi,

Please see Terry's note. Please draft an update and send it to me for review. Please prioritize this and try to get it done by 10:30 am.

Thanks,
Sharon

Sharon J. Jaffess, Acting Deputy Director
U.S. EPA / Great Lakes National Program Office
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GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND:

- The Great Lakes are an important part of the U.S. fresh water supply, provide economically valuable commercial and recreational fisheries, and support billions of dollars in interstate and international waterborne commerce annually.
- Congress appropriated \$475 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in FY 2010 and approximately \$300 million annually thereafter (\$3.16 billion through 2019). Congress directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to distribute the appropriated funds to other federal agencies participating in the GLRI.
- Through the Clean Water Act (CWA) amendments in 2015 and 2016, Congress codified the GLRI and authorized funding at \$300 million annually through 2021.
- The EPA has is now re-establishing the Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB), which will provide advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator through the Great Lakes National Program Manager. Solicitation for membership to the GLAB occurred through the Federal Register and concluded on March 25th, 2019. A total of 60 nominations were received and EPA is assessing the list of potential candidates. The GLAB will advise on matters related to the GLRI and the implementation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement between the United States and Canada. The GLAB will be composed of approximately 15 members who will serve as representative members of non-federal interests.
- In December 2018, Congress passed the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act, which includes the requirement that a Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program, authorized for \$50 million annually through FY 2023, be established within the Great Lakes National Program Office. Program purposes include conducting monitoring and assisting with actions that prevent or stop the establishment or spread of aquatic invasive and nuisance species within the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain systems.
- Early detection work on invasive species has been essential to preventing Asian carp populations from entering the Great Lakes and most recently helped identify larval grass carp in the Maumee River. The EPA continues to coordinate and discuss the significance of this finding with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the lead agency on this matter, as well as other members of the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee.

Commented [WT1]: Need an update on the advisory board status: where we are in nominations? how members are nominated? How many on board? Is Ohio on board?

Commented [BE2R1]: Updated the bullet for GLAB. 60 nominations were received, and we anticipate filling 15 vacancies. Currently, no one is a member of GLAB until officially selected, however, we have received nominations from Ohio.

KEY POINTS:

- The FY 2019 Appropriations bill provided \$300M for GLRI, consistent with historic levels.
- The FY 2020 President's Budget requests \$30 million for GLRI to fund critical basin-wide monitoring and build capacity at the State and local level to conduct this monitoring.

TALKING POINTS:

- EPA is committed to working with Congress as well as our federal and state partners to protect human health, support economic growth, and improve environmental conditions for Americans that live and work in the Great Lakes region.
- The GLRI has funded the clean-up of contaminated "Areas of Concern"— areas that, once restored, will increase property values and property tax bases. The GLRI has also funded activities to prevent populations of Asian carp, a species that could do irreparable harm to the region's economy and ecology if introduced, from entering the Great Lakes.
- GLRI investments have also reduced nutrient runoff to our most sensitive waterways, such as Lake Erie, Saginaw Bay, and Green Bay, and helped farmers develop sustainable, yet productive methods for working in conjunction with the ecosystem they rely on.

- The EPA also recently announced the re-establishment of the Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB). The EPA values the advice it has received on the GLRI from the GLAB. We will continue to benefit from the Board's expertise on matters affecting the Great Lakes basin.